

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth St.—Merrill's Third Concert in New York.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Macbeth—Hobbes.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—The Millionaire—La Sylphide—Raguel.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—The Tenth Plague—St. George.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Broadway—Opposite Bond Street—Hardy—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—Urania—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

LAUREL THEATRE, Broadway—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway—Afternoon—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

WOOD'S BUILDING, 65 and 67 Broadway—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

MECHANIC HALL, 43 Broadway—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

441 BROADWAY—MATT PERCY'S CAMPBELL MINSTRELS—The Millionaire—Metropolitan Police.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, April 13, 1858.

The News.

By the arrival of the steamship City of Washington, which left Liverpool on the forenoon of the 21st ult., and the Star of the West, from Aspinwall, we have late and interesting news from all parts of Europe, India, China, Australia, the Sandwich Islands, Utah, California, Oregon, Central America, New Granada and the West India Islands.

The news from Liverpool is four days later than previous advices. The cotton market was irregular, and a decline of three-sixteenths to one-fourth of a penny is reported on the rates current on the 20th; but it is not clear that this is not the same decline referred to in our commercial advices brought by the America. Breadstuffs were very inactive. Consols closed in London on the evening of the 30th at 97½.

American securities were active at previous rates. The rates in the London discount market ranged from 2½ to 5 per cent. Nothing had been done in the matter of the India loan, which was regarded with less favor in the money market. Sugar and coffee were rather lower in London.

Lord Derby had proposed his new bill for the government of India to Parliament. It was more comprehensive than that of Lord Palmerston, but almost identical in spirit with his measure. Both houses had adjourned for the Easter holidays.

Fifteen persons were burned to death while asleep in a house in London. The cotton mill of Messrs. Lewis & Williams, of Manchester, was also burned down, and five hundred persons thrown out of work.

The Duke de Malakoff was not expected to leave Paris for London until after Easter, when he would open a splendid establishment in that city. It was reported that Napoleon would soon again visit Queen Victoria. The arrests of political offenders and deportation of political convicts continued in France. It was said that the Count de Persigny would be nominated head of the French Cabinet, but this was denied by some Paris letter writers. The country continued quiet, but trade was very dull, although the Paris Bourse was firm. The Emperor had met many capitalists in council on the subject of the depression in business, and it was thought that some approach to the system of free trade would be made. The relations towards England were regarded as improved.

The publication of portions of the correspondence of Napoleon I. in the Paris Monitor is said to have offended the Emperor of Austria.

The government of Basle, Switzerland, has refused to admit the new consulate which the French government desired to establish there.

The report taken out by the America to the effect that the Spanish government had proposed a law to the Cortes for the abolition of slavery in her West India colonies was discredited in England and on the continent of Europe, and no such measure is mentioned in the correspondence from Madrid.

Our correspondent details the particulars of the voyage of the steam frigate Niagara to Plymouth, and the progress already made towards laying the Atlantic telegraph cable. The British Admiralty have detailed three vessels to assist in the work.

Telegraphic advices from India are dated at Lucknow on the 8th and Bombay on the 9th ult. It is likely that the rebellion has terminated before this time, either by the surrender or slaughter of the mutineers in Lucknow, as Sir Colin Campbell invested the place on three sides on the 1st ult. with sixty thousand troops and one hundred and twenty guns, whilst Sir James Outram had taken six thousand men across the river in order to cut off the retreat of the rebels. The mutineers were defeated with great loss by General Outram at the Alumbagh in February, and they were also beaten at different points by other generals. The Punjab was perfectly quiet. It is reported that the English ladies in Lucknow were safe with the "Queen." Trade was very active in Bombay—imports in great demand and money easy.

From China we have details of the late news dated at Canton on the 10th and at Hong Kong on the 17th of February. Commissioner Yeh had been shipped from Canton for Calcutta as a prisoner; and the official papers show that the people were more disposed to be friendly with the allied commissioners and troops. It is asserted that the representatives of France, England, Russia and the United States were acting in accord for the purpose of obtaining commercial concessions from the Emperor and extending the influence of civilization over the country. Commissioner Reed was sailing in the project of establishing a custom house at Canton, and it was thought that he would go for a short time to Manila and then return to join in a diplomatic congress with Lord Elgin, Baron Gros and Count Putiatin, the English, French and Russian Plenipotentiaries, at Shanghai. The United States frigate Mississippi was at Shanghai and the Minnesota in the Canton river on the 7th of February.

We have news from Australia dated at Sydney on the 10th and Melbourne on the 15th of February. Trade was dull all over the colony. Wool, hides and tallow had fallen in price at Sydney. Gold ranged at from \$14.60 to \$15.75, 60 per ounce at Melbourne. The new Reform bill was progressing in the Parliament of Victoria, and a Parliamentary election was being held in New South Wales.

Our advices from Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, are to the 27th of February. The King celebrated his twenty-fourth birthday on the 9th of that month. Lahuana was visited by a severe whirlwind on the 20th of February, which took off the roof from the house occupied by the American Consul. The American citizens company of Rowe & Marshall had arrived at Honolulu, on their way to Melbourne, Australia. The King and Queen had returned to Honolulu from a trip to the other islands. One hundred and ten tons of sugar had reached Honolulu from the Lihue plantation. The Polynesian says the sin of blasphemy is very common in the island. The trade import returns for 1857 show a decrease of \$1,000,000 from those of 1856, and of \$200,000 from those of 1855. The domestic produce was valued at \$1,000,000.

1857 shows a decrease of about \$45,000 from those of 1856. And in the total exports we find a falling off of \$25,000.

The news from California is unimportant. Nothing worthy of note had transpired previous to the sailing of the steamer from San Francisco. There had been no particular movement in financial or commercial affairs. Money was easy, and the supply of dust from the mines continued to flow in sufficient quantities to meet all demands. The Sur of the West brought \$1,325,912, which is an increase on the amount brought by the arrival of the corresponding date last year of nearly one hundred thousand dollars.

Our dates from Salt Lake City are to the 6th of February. Brigham Young and his Mormon followers continued to exhibit their belligerent and bragardic spirit, and were throwing out all manner of threats, evidently for the purpose of intimidating the United States troops. It is again asserted that the Mormons are suffering for lack of supplies.

By our accounts from Nicaragua it will be seen that General Jerez is in arms against the government of Martinez, and that affairs in that country are again in as great confusion as ever. The steamer San Carlos had been seized and sunk by the Nicaraguans, the Costa Rican guard which was on board having been previously driven off. It was said that Mr. Webster had procured a kind of contract from the Costa Rican government in which it was stipulated that when Vanderbilt pays \$90,000 it would consent to sell the steamer. The sinking of the San Carlos, the only steamer in its possession, effectually disposes of the conditions of this bargain.

We learn from New Granada that the treaty negotiated by Gen. Cass and Mr. Herran had at last been ratified by the New Granadian Congress.

Our advices from Havana are to the 10th inst. The ceremonies and festivities of the Holy Week had put a stop to all business. On Holy Thursday morning, in the Cathedral, a young Cuban lawyer, named Giral, was severely stabbed by a *salve guardia*, or policeman, during the solemnization of mass by the Bishop, in return for a blow inflicted upon him by the former. The affair caused great consternation amongst the congregation. There had been another arrival of Asiatics in a British ship, of whom, out of 493, 135 died during the voyage. Sugars were quiet, and exchange dull. In freights for the United States there had been a slight improvement.

We have news from the West Indies dated at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 29th ult. The markets are reported as follows:—"Business has been very dull during the past fortnight. A heavy fall in the provision trade tended somewhat to increase suspicion and retard operations. Halifax stuffs have advanced, owing to the advices by last American steamer, but other articles remain at about last quotations. Produce is very quiet, coffee and pimento being offered only in small quantities."

Our files from Bermuda are to the 23d ult., but they contain nothing of interest, either political or agricultural.

Our correspondent at Bridgetown, Barbadoes, writing on the 28th ult. says:—"Breadstuffs and provisions from the United States are in moderate supply, with an improved local consumption. Corn meal \$5 37 to \$5 50, and flour \$7 per bbl. Bag bread is commanding more attention at higher prices. Peas, codfish and mackerel are in large supply, and the market is overstocked with native produce. Sugar making is very active, and prices of new are \$2 50 per 100 lbs., and molasses 12c. per gallon. 4,112 hogsheads sugar were shipped to Cork and London. The health of the island is very good. Two regiments of soldiers (foot), each 1,000 strong, are ready to embark for India, and look for orders daily to depart. No alteration in rates of foreign exchange."

In Congress yesterday Mr. Green offered his proposition to the Senate for a Conference Committee on the Kansas bill, and it was agreed to by a vote of thirty to twenty-four. The bill authorizing the construction of a line of telegraph to some point in the vicinity of the army in Utah was discussed, and finally postponed till December next. In the House the bill providing for the establishment of a police force in the District of Columbia was taken up, and the House indulged in a protracted discussion on political topics until the adjournment without taking any action on the matter under consideration. A motion to concur with the Senate in referring the Kansas bill to a Conference Committee will be made in the House at one o'clock to-day. The administration members confidently expect to carry the motion, though the absence of a large number of members renders it somewhat doubtful whether the question will be pressed to a vote until the struggle can be recalled.

The proceedings of the Legislature yesterday were important, but we have no space for a detailed reference to them. Our reports contain full details. The Senate yesterday confirmed the nomination of Messrs. Bowen and Stranahan as Police Commissioners, with the understanding, it is supposed, that the Board will appoint Mr. George Briggs as a member of the Commission in place of Mr. Perit.

The hotel waiters held another meeting last evening, and agreed to strike for higher wages on the first of May, unless their employers accede to their demand for an increase of compensation.

The Committee of Arrangements for the Orsini and Pierri demonstration met last evening and decided that the affair should come off a week from next Thursday. The sale of tickets is progressing rapidly. We give an account of the meeting last night elsewhere.

The General Superintendent of Police is, it is said, about making an effort to have street begging stopped by a system of putting at the work of cleaning the streets all persons found begging in the streets, or all vagrants, and in the event of refusal, fair wages being offered, to have this class of persons committed for vagrancy.

The Board of Ten Governors met yesterday, but did nothing worth noting beyond designating Monday and Thursday as the visiting days of Bellevue Hospital. There are now 7,542 persons under the care of the Governors—an increase of 1,396 as compared with last year.

The Committee on Finance of the Board of Aldermen met yesterday, but no business of public interest came before them.

The Board of Supervisors met yesterday, but nothing of importance transpired.

The sale of cotton yesterday (all made before the European news was received) embraced about 1,500 bales at unchanged prices. No sales transpired after the news was published. Flour continued heavy for common grades at the previous day's prices. Extra brands of Ohio, as well as of Southern, exhibited rather more firmness at the close, while prices were unchanged. Wheat was irregular. The sales of prime or choice qualities were reported—Chicago spring sold at \$1, and red Southern at \$1 15. Corn was firmer and more active. Sales of mixed and white were made at 7½ a 7¾, and yellow at 7½. Pork was irregular; sales of mess were made at \$15 50 a \$17 50, and of prime at \$14 50 a \$16 50. Cut meats were firm. Among the sales were 25 barrels of ham at 10c. Lard was firm and sold at 10½ a 10¾. Sugars were steady but quiet. The sales embraced about 325 bbls., at rates given in another column. The chief movement in coffee was confined to the auction sale, which consisted of about 4,744 bags of Rio at 20 a 21½, average 20 45 a 20 60, which was a slight advance over previous sales. The sale drew a good company and passed off with much spirit. Freight was unchanged, and engagements moderate. The chief amount taken was for London, and in some cases of provisions at rather earlier rates.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE SPANISH COLONIES.—The last Cunard steamer brought a telegraphic dispatch from Madrid to the effect that the government of Spain had introduced a bill for the abolition of slavery in the Spanish colonies. This dispatch, it appears, was sent to the Brussels Nord, and at the time the City of Washington letter was not credited. People will do well to form no opinion on the subject without fuller information. On the face of it the bill is a good one.

The Administration and the Democratized Parties and Factions of Congress.

The democratized and disorganized condition of the parties and factions of the present Congress is the most remarkable feature in our political affairs of the present day. All party lines seem to be obliterated in both houses; all ideas of party consistency seem to have been broken up, the administration at every point is embarrassed by party defections, and its success, even in those measures which are indispensable to meet the obligations of the government, appear to be dependent upon the charities of the opposition. We do not wonder that such a state of things at Washington, at this time, should be construed by some of the leading journals of Europe as significant of the rapid downward tendencies of our popular institutions to revolution and Mexican anarchy; for even among our own political philosophers there are not a few who share in such apprehensions.

And why not? Look at the examples furnished by the present Congress of sectional and factional demoralization. The party which elected Mr. Buchanan President came into this Congress with a majority of some twenty-eight in the House and a majority of nearly two-thirds in the Senate. The same men are there, but where are these majorities? Frittered away into sectional and factional cliques, under the lead of a few plotting conspirators and unscrupulous gamblers for the honors, the offices and the public plunder of the next Presidency. Thus, with the reading of the President's annual message in the Senate, Mr. Douglas, upon Kansas, filed off from the administration with his squad of Northern and Northwestern democratic seceders, and boldly placed himself and his followers in the attitude of open rebellion.

This was an ominous beginning; but it has been rapidly followed up by other movements of defection and party disintegration equally remarkable. For instance, the President's sound and impregnable views upon filibustering, as set forth in his special message upon the Paulding-Walker case, brought about his ears a regular volley of great guns and musketry from the ranks of the Southern free-trading pro-slavery democracy. Next, upon the Utah army bill, the Southern Unionists, joined with the Western factionists, defeated the plan of the administration in both houses; and only when reduced to the weak and wishy-washy expedient of three temporary regiments of volunteers could this important object of reinforcing the army in any shape be secured. Next, the Deficiency Appropriation bill, to meet the army and other expenses already incurred, was thrown out of the House by a decisive majority; and its reconsideration and passage were only achieved by the generous support of some of the more sensible members of the opposition camp.

These examples of defection and party demoralization are quite enough to justify the conclusion that all party principles and all considerations of party consistency have ceased to exist; that all party lines are obliterated, and that renege demagogues, sectional cliques and local factions have reduced all parties in Congress to the service of some half dozen ambitious, unscrupulous, cunning and indefatigable gamblers for the grand Presidential prize of 1860. Thus the party which was elected to sustain a democratic administration has been cut up into three or four separate and discordant fragments; thus the rump of the Know Nothing party has been divided into two or three little separate cliques; and thus we find that to the black republicans—the most deadly enemies of the President—he has really been indebted for those appropriations of men and money without which the functions of the government, civil and military, to a great extent would now be stopped.

This is certainly a very gloomy picture of the existing condition of parties, sections and factions in Congress, and very ominous of a rapid downward tendency to that state of revolution and anarchy which controls, at the point of the bayonet, the despotic and precarious Presidential governments of Mexico and South America. But, then, we have here in these United States the safeguards of Anglo-Saxon common sense and an overwhelming mass of intelligent, educated and pure blooded white people, whose practical business interests neither political parties nor reckless demagogues can trifle with too far, sustained as the people are by a vigilant, omnipresent, independent press, which neither parties nor factions nor demagogues can buy. Hence it is that with all the recklessness and corruption of the tricksters of Congress they have been compelled, "upon the sober second thought," to concede this measure and that principle to the administration which they had resolved at first to deny.

It is in these things that we may find the secrets of the inherent strength and solidity of the Union—an intelligent, practical, conservative people, and a popular and independent press. These are the powerful elements which have given to the administration of Mr. Buchanan its strength and its successes against all the party defections and demoralizations of Congress. Nor need our European newspaper cotemporaries entertain any serious alarm in consequence of the mutinous and revolutionary aspects of our present Congress. Within another year or so the members thereof will be called to an account at the bar of public opinion. In this view they are beginning to comprehend their position. They see that in an unscrupulous war upon the administration they will themselves be destroyed, and they are falling back. They know that the country will sustain that which is honest, fair and just; and they know, too, that, with all their clamor, the administration still possesses the undiminished respect and confidence of the country.

Ratification of the Treaty Between the United States and New Granada.

The Star of the West brings us a report that the treaty between the United States and New Granada, signed in Washington last September by Gen. Cass and M. Herran, the New Granadian Minister, had been ratified at Bogota, after having first been rejected by Congress, and then reconsidered. The intelligence is believed to be correct, and is of considerable importance to those having claims against New Granada.

It will be remembered that the difficulties between our government and New Granada arose principally out of the destruction of American property in the Panama riots of the 15th April, 1856. There were other important questions, however, such as the imposition of a tax by New Granada upon articles in transit across the Isthmus, and a desire also to effect a more liberal postal convention. The Minister of the United States, Judge Bowlin, was unable, after many months negotiation, to effect any arrange-

ment. The then government of New Granada denied that it was in any respect responsible, under the existing treaty stipulations, for the occurrences at Panama, although it was expressly provided in that instrument that the interoceanic route should be kept open and maintained in peace and good order. A special Minister, Mr. Morse, was then sent by our government to Bogota, but his mission was productive of no more satisfactory results. Meantime a change took place in the government of New Granada, and their Minister, Gen. Herran, was directed to open negotiations directly with the State Department at Washington. After some weeks delay the treaty, which it is now stated has been ratified by the New Granadian Congress, was duly signed.

The treaty in question does not by any means cover all the matters in dispute—but limited as it is, it met with the most serious opposition on the part of the opposition in New Granada. It provides for the appointment of a joint commission to investigate all the claims of citizens of the United States against New Granada from 1818 to the present time, including the claims growing out of the Panama riots. The amount awarded in each case is to be paid by New Granada, the convention declaring that "New Granada acknowledges its responsibility, derived from the right and obligation of maintaining the interoceanic route in peace and good order." It is also agreed that inasmuch as the government of the United States may require to possess in one of the islands adjacent to Panama sufficient land, not exceeding a hundred acres, for landing places, coal depot, wharves, &c., the Granadian government grants the privilege of buying or renting such lands, the authorities of the Isthmus not having the right to tax them or in any other way interfere with their works. And in order to make provision for the payment of the indemnity to our citizens for their claims, New Granada assigns one-half of the amount annually received from the railroad company, and guarantees to make provisions to meet the residue. In addition to these stipulations, General Herran, in the name of his government, expressed his regret at the occurrences which took place at the riots, and promised that the offenders should be prosecuted and punished.

This treaty is very well as far as it goes, and, under all the circumstances, it no doubt was advisable to close the questions included in it as speedily as possible. But we expect General Cass will now proceed to insist upon an adjustment of the remaining questions without further delay. The New Granadian government has been notified that if any attempt is made to collect the passenger and tonnage tax which she has directed to be imposed on goods and passengers going over the Panama Railroad that it will be resisted by the United States. Thus there is daily danger of an interruption of the intercourse across the Isthmus, dependent wholly upon the fear which New Granada may entertain of our government. Nothing can be more unjust than the attempt on the part of New Granada to establish such an imposition as taxing persons and goods merely passing across the Isthmus. It is in violation of the spirit and letter of the treaty by which this interoceanic route was established, and it is in direct opposition to the principle which governs New Granada in regard to her own imports, which are duty free. If this free trade works in such a way as to bring no revenue into the New Granadian treasury, it would be more honorable in that government to endeavor to replenish it in some other way than by taxing our citizens in violation of existing treaty stipulations or any civilized commercial precedent. At all events our government has given notice that it will not submit to any such exactions, and if the question is left open it is very probable it may lead to the most unpleasant results.

Meantime, we hope the news of the ratification of the Cass-Herran treaty is correct, and that justice is at length to be done to our citizens who have suffered from the outrages of the Panama rioters.

Women's Rights and Runaway Matches.

Within the past week it is understood that an unusual number of runaway matches have taken place in this city. It is rumored that some of our principal up town hotels have been the scene of some of these amatory heiges, and that certain among the Wall street bankers are more interested in them than they would like.

Something, of course, must be allowed for the vernal season, which, as every one knows, prompts mankind as well as the brute creation to love. But even allowing for this, it strikes us, judging from certain data before us, that the mania for runaway matches must be decidedly on the increase. We believe it to be a fact that at the present time they form quite a large proportion of the aggregate marriages which are celebrated in these parts. They have been on the increase for some time. One may perhaps date the new development of their popularity from the *debut* which attended the efforts of Miss Mary Ann somebody to become Mrs. John Dean, in spite of the opposition of her family and the frowning indignation of our best society. That startling drama roused the energies and fired the imagination of all the ardent young girls in the city. They did not all sigh for red haired Irish coachmen, to be sure; most of them figured to themselves an Adonis, perfect in face and figure, and equally capable of winning a woman's affections and braving a brother's wrath. But the main thing they have pined for has been a husband to run away with them; and, as we said, very many of them have not pined in vain. There are hundreds of young married couples inhabiting New York at the present time who were in such a hurry to become man and wife that they could not wait for anybody's consent, or any vulgar pecuniary means; who now are dependent upon the support of some relation, and see before them, as plain as the sun at noonday, a life of misery, obscurity and possibly crime.It may be asked, how does it happen, in this enlightened age, where our girls are so tremendously educated that they know not only all that they should, but a great deal besides which they would be better without, that young women should be found ready to run away with idle vagabonds after a few days acquaintance? Our young girls are not children. At fourteen they know everything. Most New York girls of sixteen are as worldly minded as men of thirty. There is no deceiving them or catching them unawares. It is impossible to seduce them, because they have calmly considered the subject, weighed the advantages and disadvantages, and decided against a *fame pour an error*. As to passion they have nothing of the kind about them. They are more pretty, fanciful, artistic, cold, calculating, and surprisingly clever pieces of mechanism, working more

yet these same women will deliberately fly in the face of parents, friends, society and common sense to marry a tipsy fiddler, or an idle, worthless scamp of some sort or other, who never could support a wife, and who takes one in order that she may support him.

There can be very little doubt but the recent agitation of the question of women's rights has had much to do with the increase of runaway matches. Her marriage is the only thing a girl cares about having her own way upon. She don't want to vote, or to command a ship, or to go to Congress, or to plead causes, or to cauterize ulcers. But your true daughter of Eve would rather, if you please, choose her own husband, without regard to anybody else's opinion. Therefore when the women's rights advocates proclaim that she has a right to independence of foreign control, and that her individual will is her best guide; when Mr. James T. Brady and Mr. George W. Curtis preach in a fashionable lecture room against the horrid tyranny practiced by parents and guardians over their daughters and wards; when every invidious argument is employed to inflame the minds of young girls by painting the wrongs of women in vivid colors, and calling upon them to assert their rights as the equals of man; what can a girl do, how can she bear witness to the eloquence of the lecturer better than by running away with a coachman or a fiddler?

The lecturers on women's rights seem to expect that their pet theory is destined to general adoption in this country and in the world at large. We hope they are mistaken. For experience and reason alike signalize an increase of runaway matches as the first consequence of the development of the women's rights theory; and not even the lecturers themselves would argue that such marriages are calculated to conduce to the public benefit or to the private happiness of the parties.

Another Southern Commercial Convention—A Race Chance for a Good Bargain.

Our numerous readers, and especially those directly interested in the coasting trade between the North and the South, will find an interesting Southern manifesto among the general matters of news which we publish to-day. It is a manifesto issued to "the people of the Southern and Southwestern States" by the committee appointed at Knoxville Southern Commercial Convention of 1857, inviting the "men of the South to turn out and send full delegations of their noblest sons" to the convention which is to be held in Montgomery, Alabama, on the 10th day of May next.

It will be observed that the special object put forth by the committee in behalf of these talking conventions is the preparation of the South for the dreaded contingency of disunion. In view of this contingency, which the committee seem to regard as inevitable, and only as a question of time, they plead that the first thing to be done is to make the South independent of Northern ships and Yankee skippers, by establishing a direct and self-sustaining commerce between the Southern States and foreign nations.

To this end the committee confess that very little as yet has been accomplished by these conventions; but that still they have paid all expenses in the Union which they have produced among Southern men in defence of Southern rights, cost what it may. We are assured, however, that this forthcoming convention "will not consider the question of disunion, or any question tending to produce that result;" but that "if we succeed in restoring the commercial independence of the South, and build up our own towns and enrich our own people, by our own means, which now build up and enrich others," it will be enough, even though disunion should follow close behind.

Very well. Perhaps we can aid these commercial regulators in their great undertaking of revolutionizing the laws of trade. We have certainly no objection to bring the project to a practical experiment as soon as possible, and in this view we have a hint or two to submit which may be of the highest practical value to this grand gathering in May of our Southern commercial philosophers.

The Convention at Knoxville appointed the Hon. William Ballard Preston, of Virginia, a special messenger to Europe in behalf of Mr. A. Dudley Mann's grand project of a line of stupendous steamers between England and Norfolk. He was thus authorized to enter into negotiations for a trial trip of the great steamship Leviathan to Norfolk, merely by way of showing the practicability of his plan of a line of vessels to that port, each of twenty or thirty thousand tons. Having failed, however, in diverting the trial trip of the Leviathan to Norfolk, Mr. Preston wisely concluded that France would perhaps be a better field for his main enterprise than England. The result was a contract with the Paris and Orleans Railway Company for a line of four steamers, of twenty-five hundred tons each, to ply between the mouth of the Loire and Norfolk; capital five millions, one-half to be furnished on each side of the Atlantic, &c. The company, in pursuance of this contract, has been chartered by the Virginia Legislature, and nothing is now wanted to put the scheme into full blast except the money and the steamers.

Now, then, we propose to this approaching Southern Commercial Convention of the "noblest sons" of the South, first, that instead of long speeches, high sounding resolutions, and empty abstractions, they proceed to a practical effort to raise the money and the steamers for this Southern initiative Norfolk experiment of direct trade. Secondly, that after raising a handsome sum of money, cash down, the Convention shall send a competent agent or committee to New York to buy the Collins steamers. There are three of them—the Atlantic, the Baltic, and the crack ship, the Adriatic—three of the largest, swiftest, strongest and most beautiful steamers in the world. They are in the market—they are all ready for sea; but they are all lying idle at the foot of Canal street, the line having proved a dead loss from the niggardly economy of Congress in regard to the postal service.

These splendid steamers, cash down, we don't not, can be bought now at a great bargain; and only think of the advantages to Southern direct trade of a line of such steamers, all complete, and ready to sail at a day's notice, as compared with the slow operation of building new steamers of an inferior size and quality at a greater cost, and at a dead loss of two years, perhaps, of valuable time. We admonish our Southern friends, too, that in this matter there is danger in delay. The mercantile men of that island, fresh water port, called Philadelphia, are on the alert, and talk with a very confident air of buying the Collins line to run up the Delaware in the summer season, and to New York in the winter, when the Delaware is frozen up. We know, too, that some of those Philadelphia

old broadbrims have the money, and can readily raise a million or two if they are only very sure it "can be made to pay."

Come, then, gentlemen of the Southern Commercial Convention, now is your chance for an immediate experiment of a line of splendid steamers, all complete, direct between Norfolk and France, under the contract of Mr. Preston. Buy it; try it. Very true, the line has failed between New York and Liverpool—two ports possessing some commercial resources; but still the ships have failed from the withdrawal of the government supplies. Perhaps the government may be more liberal to this line transferred to the South. If not, the best plan, perhaps, would be to get each of the Southern States concerned in the enterprise to put in a subscription of eight or ten thousand a year, say for five years for the first agreement, to give the scheme a good start. Thus it may be made to pay in the course of fifteen or twenty years. Who knows? What say our philosophers of the Southern Commercial Convention? Now is your time.

Fancy Balls and Society at Washington—Grand Lobby Convention in Disguise.

Public attention has been directed to the national capital during the past winter by a series of occurrences more exciting than creditable. There have been fights on the floor of Congress, knock downs in the rotunda, battles in the streets, rencontres in barrooms, and incontinent duels by the dozen. These latter affairs, however, owing to the commendable discretion of our legislators, remained in the bud. The time has thus been passed in those light and cheerful entertainments so much in keeping with the dignity of the Senator, and which have afforded the *attachés* of the legations so many *piquant* paragraphs for their private letters. But the best of entertainments sometimes pall upon the appetite. Washington society at last became bored with fights. What if one honorable member did pull another honorable member's nose, or kick him down stairs, were not the honorable members continually doing so? What if a party of "swipers"—that is the elegant name of the Baltimore ruffians—did come into the District and break each other's head under the shadow of the Capitol? Had not that sort of amusement become stale by custom? It is not good to have always partridge for dinner; so we must get up something new, and that new thing is a grand fancy ball, to which everybody shall come, and where, under the influence of punch, champagne, cigars, crinolines and Strasburg pies, we shall arrange all the lobby business for the balance of the session. Thus saith the log rollers, the axe grinders, the private bill engineers, the patent extenders, and all the lobby, great and small, big and little.Well, the ball came off. The editors were invited to the number of seventy, but only seven accepted. Whether these mysterious seven represented the seven sacraments, the seven golden candlesticks, the seven churches, the seven wonders of the world, or the seven deadly sins, we cannot say—more likely the latter than the former. They seem to have been drawn chiefly from the class of *clerkies* who conduct the penny papers at Washington, and who eagerly seized upon this splendid opportunity to fill themselves to the brim with oysters and champagne, and to pick up a few pennies by reporting the next day the full names of ladies who presumed they were attending a private party. The seven rag picking Jenkinses, however, don't stand upon small points of etiquette, and so their seven-by-nine inch sheets are full of the ball, and the dresses, and the punch, and the supper—particularly the latter.We have before us the accounts of three Jenkinses, an embarrassment of riches in that way. They combine, as Jerrold says, "the keenness of the razor with the brilliancy of the door plate." One starts off with the assertion that this ball is the greatest affair of the kind since that at which Gustavus of Sweden met with a fatal accident. As the Washington affair was a *bal costumé*, and the other a *bal masqué* domino ball, and therefore not at all similar, and as Jenkins cannot be supposed to have attended all the balls for the last century, there might be a little doubt about the propriety of this neat figure. However, it is pretty, and let it pass. It next appears that the givers of the ball have a "family dictionary," in which there's no such word as "fail," and so, on account of the mission, the ball succeeded. Jenkins, after "treasuring in his head some recollections," repairs to the punch room, where "two gigantic bowls were kept supplied with the most delectable beverages—one spirituous, the other vinous." All the Jenkinses speak enthusiastically of this punch. After punch Jenkins prostrated himself at the shrine of the ladies that received, who "dressed magnificently." One was a marchioness, "above the usual size"—(what is the usual size?); the other was a Greek girl—some distance off that—with silver boots and cas, which must have had a curious effect. Here, also, was stationed the official reporter of the affair and of the penny lobby organ, and after him we hear of the President, several members of the Cabinet, Senators, &c., who, being gentlemen, were dressed as gentlemen, and got out as soon as possible. The Turkish Admiral came, and we are not surprised to hear that he was "much amused." He was "much amused" with the New York Connelmen. Jenkins further tells us that Lord Napier, in court costume, was a fine representative of "British diplomacy." We are not aware that his lordship has on anything to deserve this puff, and hope he will go to work at once. Sir W. G. Ouseley came as a Knight of the Bath, as whether he means to throw cold water on the Nicaragua treaty we are not informed. Nay we have the usual lists of Pompadours, French Kings, flower girls, Spanish and Italian poets (in velvet, lace and satin), Highlander and court dresses. We are told that ladies "walked in beauty like night," that one "moved through the dance like the goddess of the day"—(does Aurora know the "Lancers"?); that several others "attracted much admiration," another "general admiration" (probably from some of the men of battle, who are polite when they ought to be on the frontier); the another was "universally admired." Jenkins ought to be more careful about the distribution of the adverbs—the ladies may get jealous.

The dames and demoiselles do not, however, monopolize the elegant grill of the brilliant recorders. So admirable an opportunity for interchange of compliments by the members of the Mutual Admiration Society could not be allowed to pass; we have accounts of some people that nobody ever heard of before, and others known to fame. Keitt of the Howland was a Buckingham—which one we are apt to form. They all made a horrid mess in the political operations, however. John Cochrane